AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-47. (Cancelled).

48.   (Currently Amended) A system for validating consumer returns of purchased products, comprising:

a first information processing system having a product registration database containing information on purchased products and return criteria for purchased products;

a second information processing system located at a retailer's facility,

said second information processing system having a input device that enables a unique product identifier to be obtained from a product at the point of sale, wherein, after purchase, said unique product identifier and transaction information, including at least a date of sale, are stored in said product registration database as at least part of said information on purchased products;

said second information processing system operable, via said input device, to receive input on purchased products sought to be returned and to transmit to the first information processing system a unique product identifier based on the input;

the first information processing system being operable to:

receive the unique product identifier;

access the product registration database and determine whether the product qualifies for return based on the unique product identifier, the transaction information and the return criteria associated with the product sought to be returned; and

transmit to the first information processing system product information that indicates whether the product qualifies for return;

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said second information processing system including a display that is operable to display the product information when received from the first information processing system;

and further wherein said first information processing system includes a customer interface, accessible by a purchaser over the Internet after a purchased product has been registered in said product registration database, that which enables a purchaser of a the purchased product that has been registered in said product registration database to enter a unique product identifier for a the purchased product and purchaser identification information which identifies the purchaser of the purchased product, said first information processing system being operable to store said purchaser information in said product registration database in association with said product information based on said unique product identifier.

49. (Previously presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the first information processing system is located at a location remote from the second information processing system.

50. (Previously presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the second information processing system includes a product scanner operable to generate the input by scanning the product.

51. (Previously presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the unique product identifier is a product serial number.

52. (Previously presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the unique product identifier is provided on said product in the form of a bar code.

53. (Previously presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the product information includes at least a date of purchase, location of purchase and purchase payment information.

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54. (Previously presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the product information further includes a listing of available options with respect to return, replacement and repair of the product sought to be returned.

55. (Previously presented) The system of claim 54, wherein the display enables selection of one of the available options, and the second information processing system operates in response to the selection to transmit information to the first information processing system that is used by the first information processing system to update the product registration database based on the option selected.

56. (Previously presented) The system of claim 48, wherein the customer interface of said first information processing system prompts the customer to enter validation information that is used by said first information processing system to validate the customer prior to accepting customer identification information through said customer interface.

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